

The W.A.COM HAM



April 1996

Editor: Kevin Smith

Washington, PA

ITU Auctions Spectrum

as relayed by Tom Clark, W3IWI

Geneva (April 1). The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) today announced that it was selling the entire set of frequencies of the electromagnetic spectrum in order to provide a permanent endowment for the United Nations family of organizations for the indefinite future.

"We've learned a lot from our American colleagues at the FCC, said a spokesperson for the ITU. Their spectrum allocation auctions have convinced us that the capitalist model is superior to our established ways of allocating spectrum. We realized that we could improve on their model by extending the auction to include all frequencies, not just those for narrow communication purposes.

As might be expected, initial bidding activity has been fiercest in the visible frequency range. An anonymous source has reported that IBM has been bidding in excess of U.S. \$50 million for the rights to exclusive use of Pantone 3462, otherwise known as IBM Blue. Cosmetics manufacturers are fighting fiercely for rights to use approximately 218 different very narrow frequency ranges in the reds, ensuring uniqueness for their extensive collection of lipsticks and other cosmetics.

In a bold move to preserve financial stability, the U. S. Government immediately appropriated the U.S. dollar green part of the spectrum to protect the integrity of its money supply. Shortly thereafter, House Majority Leader Newt Gingrich introduced a bill that prohibited turning (that shade of) green with envy by illegal aliens. At a campaign rally in Orange (tm), Connecticut, Presidential candidate Pat Buchanan quickly endorsed the measure but added that it did not go far enough. "We'll put full frequency filters all along the wall at the Mexican border, he said to make sure that those foreigners don't steal all-American frequency rights!" he said. The Justice Department has promised full cooperation in the event that the bill became law.

Vladimir Zhirinovsky, a leading contender for the Russian Presidency, said, "Red is our heritage, our birthright! You can auction all the other frequencies in the spectrum, but after I win the next election I shall take this matter up immediately and most forcefully with your Governing Body!"

The Ku Klux Klan registered extreme dismay when the purity of the whiteness of their costumes began to degrade as slivers of the frequencies comprising white were auctioned off and withdrawn from the market. Faced with the realization that as more and more frequencies are withdrawn from public use, the color of their robes will ultimately approach black as a limit, a spokesperson said, "It just ain't no fun here anymore," and suggested that this might be sufficient to cause the organization to disband.

Manufacturers of prisms for physics instruction were aghast at the thought of having to produce prisms that displayed only those specific colors for which no bid was obtained or accepted. The National Council of Scientific Instrument Manufacturers has stated its intent to petition the National Science Foundation to create an Acceptable Use Policy that would allow unrestricted use of the visible part of the spectrum for instructional

(See Spectrum Auction - continued on page 2)

Speaking Out

by Kevin Smith, N3HKQ
Newsletter Editor



(Continued from page 1)

Spectrum Auction

purposes only.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield was ecstatic about the auction, saying that the sky was the limit for their bid for the X-ray frequencies. "Once we obtain these frequencies for our appropriate use, medical care issues in this country with respect to HMOs and PPOs can be definitively solved," a spokesperson said.

Manufacturers of sunscreen and other blocking agents bid highly for the ultra-violet part of the spectrum, vowing to place them in a public trust for public benefit, saying, "the public cannot be deprived of this valuable natural resource. By our actions, we shall preserve it for future generations."

Monochrome computer video display manufacturers expressed secret satisfaction at the sudden move. One of them volunteered off the record, "Since black is the absence of any color, we'll be in business as long as we can use any other visible frequency whatsoever!"

In an ironic consequence of this new policy, representatives of the ITU were unable to sign the agreement awarding the charcoal grey frequency to Brooks Brothers because the only pen available used ink of a color that had already been auctioned off. Knowing the integrity of the UN family of organizations, the Brooks Brothers representative

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Well it appears that I did my best to get the revamped two meter net, conducted every Tuesday evening, off to less than a good start. I had the net control station schedule completely jumbled. I didn't even show for a net I was supposed to be control station for. Dave DeMotte straightened me out though without even threatening to fire me. There's patience! The correct two meter net control schedule appears on the last page of the newsletter.

Once again the script for the net control station appears on page 6 of this issue. It is there so that if a scheduled two meter net control does not show up for some reason, you can take it. You

just have to remember to record all of the "check-ins" and send the list to Dave DeMotte. His telephone number is below in case you don't know his address.

I went ahead and sent an announcement of the National Pike Festival Special Event Station to QST magazine (May 1996 issue) and registered the club with Scenery Hill. The way club meetings have gone, I didn't think I could wait to ask the club. At very least I will operate the Special event station either from the club room or my home if the club can't get it together to appear at Scenery Hill. Either way I hope to have the pleasure of your company.

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The Pittsburgh Amateur Radio World Wide Convers System

by Chuck Gessner, KC3ET

In this article, I would like to provide information about the Pittsburgh end of the Amateur Radio World Wide Keyboard Convers System. The Amateur Radio World Wide Convers System is a loose group of local Convers Systems in various cities around the world all connected together using the Internet for data transmission purposes. The Convers System's purpose is to provide keyboard to keyboard chatting with radio amateurs all over the world. Most of these radio amateurs are connected using packet radio in their local cities. In the Pittsburgh area these connection capabilities are provided by a group of dedicated amateur radio operators headed by Don N3GUZ under the auspices of the Duquesne University Amateur Radio Club, using the club call sign WB3BOI. I will first describe briefly how to connect to this system from the Pittsburgh 'WB3BOI' end, and to get started using this system. First and foremost is to understand what other amateur radio internet convers systems are connected to this system.

They are: Uakron, TNOSTampa, Hydra, Antelope, AntwerpBE, ARIZONA, Atanasoff, Athnet, Bare_UK, Bare-CONV, BayBBS, BayCONV, Bern-City, Boss_Cty, CBSServer, Chicago, CROWD, Dresden_D, Ds sel dr, Elnon nt n, Ehvnet, Emden, Espoo_FI, Farmington, G.R._MI, Gator-UF, Goes, gwpe1cig, Holland, Houston, IJmond, IndianaU, Juelich_D, Koblenz_D, Kuopio_FI, Lantz, Leics_UK, Lombard, LosAngele, Lurpac_UK, Luzanam, Mburg_NL, Michigan, MobileAL, Ottawa, Pisa, Poker, Poznan_PL, RENO_Conv, RheinRuhrv, Shadow, Stockholm, Tampa, Tampa-gate, TNOSTampa, Torrance, Torun_PL, Turku_FI, UHARS_UK, USAHub, Westland, Wlfd_CT, Ztr_NLs, and Zurich. As you can see there are many countries represented on the Amateur Radio World Wide Internet Convers System. Please keep in mind that these systems may or may not be connected all of the time to the world wide convers system. The Pittsburgh based WB3BOI system is usually connected to the 'Uakron' host most of the time.

Now, some basics. To connect to the Pittsburgh end of the Convers Server you need to: 1) Move your 2 meter radio dial to 144.97 Mhz and make sure that your radio is set to simplex operation. 2) Connect directly to WB3BOI World Wide Internet Convers System by typing your tnc command 'C WB3BOI'. Once you receive the 'CONNECTED TO WB3BOI' message from your packet tnc, press your computers ENTER or RETURN key. You should then observe some sort of log on message from the WB3BOI system describing the various keyboard chatting sessions in use.

If you DO NOT get connected to WB3BOI, then you need to use another method to connect. That method is to use the CHAT packet network switch located near the Allegheny County Airport. To connect to WB3BOI Convers System using the CHAT Packet Network Switch: 1) Type your tnc command 'C CHAT'. 2) Once you receive the 'CONNECTED TO CHAT' message and a short list of CHAT commands, type the command 'HOST'. This command will start the connection process to the WB3BOI Convers System. 3) You should then receive a message from the CHAT packet network switch stating that you are 'CONNECTED TO WB3BOI'. 4) Once you receive the 'CONNECTED TO WB3BOI' message from your tnc, press your computers ENTER or RETURN key. 5) You should then observe some sort of log on message from the WB3BOI system describing the various keyboard chatting session.

Congratulations, if all has gone as mentioned above, you have made it to the WB3BOI Convers System. You should now be on channel 7373 of this system. Yes, the Convers System is arranged in channels, with each channel having a different topic or discussion in use. Usually there will not be anyone else on channel 7373.

From here onward it will be important to know that all World Wide Internet Convers System commands start with the forward slash '/' command. Example: '/BYE' is used to disconnect. The command to switch channels is '/CH desired channel number'. Example: '/CH 0' to switch to the Calling Channel 0. Please follow this command with the command '/LE leaving channel number'. Example: '/LE 7373'. This extra step is necessary so that you do not transmit on more than one channel at a time. Once you get to your desired channel, you can join in with the group operating there by simply typing on your keyboard. Please remember that channel 0 is the calling channel. It usually is very busy. Thus you may not get a word in edgewise. Hi Hi. You can move to it to establish contact with someone if you wish, then move to a less busy channel. To log-off the WB3BOI World Wide Internet Convers System, simply type either the command '/BYE' to disconnect from the WB3BOI Convers System or if you connected to WB3BOI using the CHAT packet network switch, disconnect from WB3BOI first, then disconnect from the CHAT packet network switch with it's 'BYE' command.

There are many other commands that you can use to operate this system and are listed at the end of the article. Please remember that the more local area amateurs using this system, the slower it will operate. It is hoped to someday have this system operate using a higher baud rate access system. So please have patience with this system.

Remember that this system is experimental, thus it could be operating fine one minute and then gone the next. If you would like more information or like to help with the development of this system, please DO NOT address your messages to me. You need to address them to the system operator group headed by Don N3GUZ. You can reach N3GUZ by addressing mail to him by either Internet Email: broderic@wb3boi-gw.physics.duq.edu or Amateur Packet Mail: N3GUZ@W2XO.#SWPA.PA.USA.NOAM.

Have fun with the system. There is a famous saying 'Use It Or Lose It'. This system has been in development for a long time. Thus it needs your support in more ways than one. I would like to thank Don N3GUZ, Mike N3IDI, and John N3OVQ for their help in providing information for this document, and to providing the Pittsburgh end of the World Wide Internet Convers System.

****Convers Commands for TPP-1.14 at Pittsburgh****

The commands can be abbreviated by leaving out any non-capitalized letters in the command name. Parameters in "[]" are optional. NOTE: Commands marked with "*" are only available to SYSOPs.

/? Prints a short summary of the available commands

/Away [text] Mark user as being away

/Action text Write action to channel

/All text Send text to all users

/Beep Toggle Beep-Mode

/BELI Toggle Beep-Mode

/BYe Terminate the convers session

/Channel n Switch to channel n

/CHARset [in [out]] Change terminal emulation (default ansi)

/CQ [text] Sends a CQ to all users

/CStat Displays links and destinations information

/CUt Simulates the cutting of a card deck/displays result

/Destinations List reachable ping-pong hosts

/Exit Terminate the convers session

/EXclude user text Send Text to all on channel except user

/HALt Halt the convers server - operator-only command

/Help [subj] Get help on a subject

/HOsts List reachable ping-pong hosts

/Invite user Invite user to join your channel

/IMsg user text Send Text to all on channel except user

/IWrite user text Send Text to all on channel except user

/Join Switch to channel n

/Last user List last appearances of user

/LEave [channel] Leaves specified or default channel

/Links [args] List or setup links (see "help links")

/LISt List all channels and topics

/ME text Write action to channel

/MOde #channel options Set channel options

/Msg user/#channel text Send message to a user or joined channel

/News Prints out the current PingPong 'news'

/NIckname name Set the name you will be identified by

/NOickname Reset nickname to your username

/NOTify [calls] Send notice if one of calls signs on

/NOTE [text] Set personal description

/Operator [number] Become operator

/Page user Page a user to join your channel

/PErsonal [text] Set personal description

/PRompt abcd Prompts a=query b=std c=ctrl-g d=ctrl-h

/QUery [user] Start/End a private conversation

/Quit Terminate the convers session

/QUOt Sends host's Quote-of-the-day to the current channel

/Realname [user] List nicknames and realnames of users

/REStart Restart the convers server - operator-only command

/ROll Simulates the rolling of two dice/displays selection

/Send user text Send a private message to user

/SMiley Displays a random 'smiley' and its meaning

/STats [[mode] [num]] Request statistics on this server

/SYsinfo [host] Requests information about a specific host site

/SYSOp [number] Become operator

/Time Sends host's current time to the current channel

/TOpic [#chan] [text] Set channel topic. Text=@ removes topic

/UPtime How long has this conversd been up ?

/Users [*|L|Q] List users and their channel numbers

/Verbose Toggles verbose Flag

/VERsion Show version information

/Who [*|L|Q|U users] List users and their channel numbers

/WHOIs [user] Gives complete information about a user

/WIdth [value] Set/show terminal width

/WRIte user text Send a private message to user

W3CSL Club Web Site:

<http://www.nauticom.net/www/spencer/spencer.html>

President's Corner

by Bob Ketzell, KB3IN

Well so far this year has been a very easy one for as President of WACOM. Out of the last 4 months, this will be only our second meeting. Hopefully we will have good weather and the officers and members can make the meeting.

At the March "un-meeting", Steve Elliott, KA3UDR accepted the job as chairman of the hamfest. If you can help, I'm sure Steve would be happy to hear from you. April is the time of year when we start to get active in outside activities and its no different with ha radio. We have a lot of things coming up so please get radio active in the upcoming events.
73 Bob, KB3IN

Are You an Active Member?

*Are you an Active Member,
The Kind that would be missed'
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you simply stay at home
And criticize and knock?
Do you take an active part
To help the work along
Or are you only satisfied
To join and "just belong?"
When business sessions come around
Do you pretend to be sick,
And leave the work to just a few,
Then talk about "The Clique?"
So come to the meetings more often,
And help out with hand and heart.
Don't be "Just a member,"
But take an active part.*

(Continued from page 2)

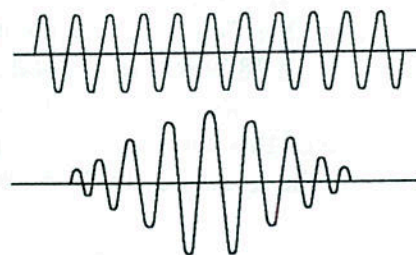
Spectrum Auction

consummated the deal with a handshake.

A resale market for frequencies has rapidly developed. The Chicago Commodities Exchange has announced that it is making a primary market in frequency rights, and trading has begun. At press time, October yellows in the 3.34-3.50 THz range were quoted at \$2.50 bid and \$2.625 asked per angstrom, with 146 contracts already finalized. Christmas season reds and greens have quadrupled in price since the market opened, and traders are anticipating vigorous market activity later this year.

ITU officials were very pleased with the results of the auction so far, declaring that the revolution had just started. Said one ITU representative, "With this auction we've only affected the space impacting one of the five human senses. We're currently looking into the ownership of rights to the audible frequencies and olfactory space, and we hope to proceed with another offering very soon."

The Headquarters of the International Telecommunications Union is located in Geneva, Switzerland.



**** Special Event Station Announcement****

The Belle Vernon Area High Amateur Radio Club (KB3BKW) will be operating a special event station on May 9, 1996. We will operate from Kennywood Amusement Park in West Mifflin, PA to demonstrate Ham Radio to high school students during Physics day. We will be operating in all portions of the General 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. (Mostly 20m) We will be on the air from 1500Z to 2100Z on May 9, 1996. Listen for our club's call, KB3BKW. To obtain a certificate send your QSO info, QSL card, and a 9x12 inch self addressed stamped envelope to:

**Belle Vernon Area High School ARC
c/o Mr. Tom Thompson
RD 2 Crest Ave
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
USA**

Scenery Hill National Pike Festival Special Event Station Operated by WACOM

Washington Amateur Communications to operate KB3BHS on Saturday, May 18th, 1996 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM EDT. We will be commemorating U.S. Route 40 as the Federally built road built west of the Allegheny Mountains.

The National Pike Festival is conducted along U.S. Route 40, in towns of Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. The site of the Special Event Station, KB3BHS, is located in Scenery Hill, Washington County, Pennsylvania.

KB3BHS will be operated in the General portion of the 40 and 20 meter bands, and 146.52 Mhz FM, 144.100 Mhz SSB, and 432.100 Mhz SSB.

To obtain a certificate or QSL card, send your QSL card, and an appropriately sized self addressed stamped envelope to:

WACOM
PO Box 1386
Washington, PA 15301



WASHINGTON COUNTY TRAINING AND TRAFFIC NET

(Revised January 1996)

On 145.49 MHz: "Calling all radio amateurs...calling all radio amateurs...the Washington County Traffic and Training Net will follow."

"Good evening, this is [], net control for the Washington County Training and Traffic Net. This is a directed net and all amateurs are invited to check in. All stations are asked to check out with Net Control if you leave the net before the net is secured. This net meets every Tuesday evening at 8:30 PM local time on the W3CYO repeater on 145.49 MHz. The purpose of this net is for training, passing traffic, and general information."

"We will now take check-ins from any station with traffic and traffic only at this time...call []...Any stations on 224.4 MHz?...Any stations on 443.3 MHz?...Any stations without traffic?..."

"This has been the Washington County Training and Traffic Net. This is sponsored by Washington Amateur Communications, Washington County A.R.E.S. and R.A.C.E.S. Anyone interested in amateur radio is invited to write to WACOM at PO Box 1386, Washington, PA 15301. The WACOM Ten Meter Net will take place this evening at 9:00 PM local time on 28.340 MHz. Total check-ins for tonight's net was []. I would like to thank all who participated or helped in any way in the operation of this net. This is [] securing the net at [] local time and returning the frequency back to general amateur use."

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
 CITY OF PITTSBURGH MARATHON
 SUNDAY, MAY 6, 1996

Again this year Allegheny County A.R.E.S. Amateurs are supporting the Pittsburgh Marathon with volunteer operators. Amateurs are stationed at the start line, mile markers, water and aid stations, and the finishing line. This event requires over 150 hams. You are invited to help. All amateurs interested in public service are welcome to participate. If you have never worked the Pittsburgh marathon you will be paired with an experienced marathon worker. Commitment for the marathon is attendance at a short meeting on Saturday afternoon, May 5th, 1996 and all day Sunday, May 6th, 1996. Please complete the attached questionnaire and return to me as soon as possible.

NAME: _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS: _____
 street post office state zip

PHONE: (H) _____ (W) _____

LICENSE CLASS _____ SHIRT SIZE: S () M () L () XL ()

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE MARATHON DAY

	2m	220	440
HT	()	()	()
MOBILE	()	()	()
MAG MOUNT	()	()	()

HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN A PREVIOUS MARATHON? _____

PREFERRED MARATHON ASSIGNMENT. _____

WHAT RADIO CLUB DO YOU BELONG TO? _____

Mail to, or call: Konrad Kammerer, N3EKJ
 5649 Willow Terrace Drive
 Bethel Park, PA 15102
 Phone # 412-831-6478

Also available daily on the 146.730 MHz and 145.47 MHz Pittsburgh, PA Repeaters.

Check into the Allegheny County A.R.E.S. public service net every Wednesday evening at 9:00 PM, on the 147.09 MHz repeater of the North Hills Amateur Radio Club in Pittsburgh, Pa for additional information.

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2 Meter Net
145.49 Mhz
8:30 PM Local Time

- Apr 2 KA3KSP
- Apr 9 N3NPV
- Apr 16 N3HKQ
- Apr 23 N3IDH
- Apr 30 KA3KSP

10 Meter Net
28.340 Mhz
9:00 PM Local Time

- Apr 2 WB3GTE
- Apr 9 KA3KSP
- Apr 16 ~~WB3GTE~~
- Apr 23 ~~KA3VOM~~
- Apr 30 ~~KD3VX~~

The W.A.COM HAM

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